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a criteria to attest not only architectural originality, but art in decoration and furnishing. Three prizes will be offered of one hundred and fifty thousand, one hundred thousand, and fifty thousand lire each. Other money awards are offered in the departments of painting, sculpture, and the graphic arts as well as for the best criticism written of the display. Sales up to the amount of five hundred thousand lire are guaranteed. Owing to the fact that this exhibition will be made both a national and international affair, the municipality of Venice announced its intention of holding its regular biennial exhibition next summer instead of according to schedule in 1911. Here is opportunity for the United States to directly dissipate the unfavorable impression made by its recent exhibition.

PROGRESSIVE WORK

The Massachusetts Civic League has just published its annual report which, while modestly worded, gives an inspiring account of practical work accomplished and in progress. An excellent summing up of the billboard situation is given with some illuminating facts, together with enlightening statements concerning the status of village improvement work and housing conditions. An entire chapter is devoted to a report on the campaign for playground referendum which not only tells of successes in this field but how they were won, methods of work, and concrete experience being frankly given. All this may savor more of ethics than art, but the two are so closely allied that it is hard to discover the dividing line. Certainly poor living conditions do not conduce to art, whereas orderliness and respectability lead up to it indirectly.

NEW ENGLISH TOWN PLANNING LAW A new law in England concerning town planning has just been passed which is indicative of progress. When a new area is to be developed the local authorities, with the consent of the local government board, may lay it out irrespective of lands of private ownership, or other considerations.

But it is to be laid out for future use and for the good of the community, not at the dictation of individual whim. When such an area is to be developed the owner or owners may submit, at pleasure, a plan, to the local authority, but the merits of the plan will be impartially adjudged by the government board. If the property of any individual is damaged in the process of laying out the area, compensation will be awarded; but if, on the other hand, it is improved, assessment will be made in ratio against it. There are, moreover, in the same bill provisions in regard to housing conditions, back-to-back dwellings and cellar lodgings being prohibited, the right of entry for examination guarded, and the definition of workmen's dwellings extended in such manner as to enormously increase the scope of the law.

CINCINNATI ART MUSEUM

Mr. Meakin, of the Cincinnati Art Museum, calls attention to the fact that that institution was the first to recognize, by purchase, the merit of the works of J. H. Twachtman, Edmund C. Tarbell, Joseph DeCamp, Childe Hassam, F. W. Benson, George Elmer Schofield, Elizabeth Nourse, Edwin Pothast, and others, and that it has consistently pursued a policy of securing at first hand the paintings of American artists. In a letter addressed both to the *American Art News* and **ART AND PROGRESS** Mr. Meakin states that "for a time the Museum met with considerable criticism and even sarcastic comment both at home and abroad for buying what were called 'unimportant' pictures not worth a place in a public collection, but somehow the 'unimportant' has shed its first syllable and gradually become 'important.' For instance, the Twachtman 'Waterfall,' for which the Museum paid four hundred dollars, the price asked, * * * is said now to be easily worth five thousand." It was purchased during Twachtman's lifetime. In the entrance hall of the Art Museum has recently been exhibited three large mural paintings by Mr. Frank Duveneck just completed for the Cathedral in Covington, Kentucky.